

Message Text

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45

ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 STR-04 ERDA-07

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 /112 W

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FM AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 921

UNCLAS EDINBURGH 276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, UK

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS REGARDING COMMERCIAL DISCRIMINATION

REF: EDINBURGH 223 PARA 4(H)

IN AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY UNDER SEC STATE FOR ENERGY JOHN SMITH, THE QUESTION RE "DISCRETIONARY" OR "AUCTION" BASIS FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF LICENSING WAS DISCUSSED.

ALTHOUGH SMITH HAD NO RPT NOT DIRECT COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS THAT DISCRETIONARY ALLOCATION HAD "ENABLED BRITISH-OWNED COMPANIES TO BE AWARDED A LARGER SHARE OF THE TERRITORY AND, SIMILARLY, A LARGER SHARE OF THE MORE ATTRACTIVE BLOCKS", HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE LUDICROUS TO REGARD THIS AS DISCRIMINATORY, COMPARED, SAY, WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE US JONES AND BUY AMERICAN ACTS".

SINCE THESE TWO ACTS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED BY BRITISH OFFICIALS HERE BEFORE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE, IF POSSIBLE, A SUCCINCT STATEMENT OF EXTENT OF DISCRIMINATION AND/OR
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COMPARATIVE RELEVANCE TO "BUY BRITISH" OR OTHER PLANNED OR
EXISTING UK DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES TO USE AS TALKING POINTS
IN ANY FUTURE REFERENCES TO US PROTECTIONISM. MY RECENT
DISCUSSIONS AT THE EMBASSY ON THIS POINT WERE INSTRUCTIVE,
BUT SOMETHING WRITTEN WOULD HELP ENSURE ACCURACY.
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